

In the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method for the treatment of glaucoma which comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels of eye retinal ganglion cells ~~or other pressure-sensitive retinal ganglion cellular mechanisms~~ so as to protect retinal ganglion cells from apoptotic cell death.

4-9 (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said at least one compound is administered by way of eye drop or systemically.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of Gadolinium (Gd^{3+}), agonists of Gd^{3+} on neural cells, pyrazine-carboxamides, aminoglycoside antibiotics, netilmycin, sodium channel blockers, calcium channel blockers, potassium channel blockers, calcium ions, protons, aluminum ions, tubocurarine, halothane and other inhalational anaesthetics, quinine, integrin-blocking peptides and antibodies, cisplatin, tarantula spider venom, and ~~eolichin~~ colchicine.

12. (currently amended) An eye drop solution composition for the treatment of glaucoma which comprises at least one compound which blocks stretch activated channels of eye retinal ganglion cells ~~or other pressure-sensitive mechanisms of retinal ganglion cells~~, said at least one compound being in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients, wherein said at least one compound having a concentration sufficient to protect retinal ganglion cells from apoptotic cell death.

13. (currently amended) A device for administering a solution to the eye, wherein the improvement comprises the eye drop solution ~~The method of claim 12, wherein said at least one compound is administered by way of eye drop or systemically.~~

14. (currently amended) The method eye drop solution of claim 12, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of Gadolinium (Gd^{3+}), agonists of Gd^{3+} on neural cells, pyrazine-carboxamides, aminoglycoside antibiotics, netilmycin, sodium channel blockers, calcium channel blockers, potassium channel blockers, calcium ions, protons,

aluminum ions, tubocurarine, halothane and other inhalational anaesthetics, quinine, integrin-blocking peptides and antibodies, cisplatin, tarantula spider venom, and ~~eolentin~~ colchicine.

15. (new and withdrawn) A method of protecting neural tissue from pressure induced apoptotic cell death which comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment at least one compound which blocks the effects of pressure on neuronal cells.

16. (new and withdrawn) A method of protecting neural tissue from pressure induced apoptotic cell death which comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in neuronal cells.

17. (new and withdrawn) A method for the treatment of the effects of elevated brain pressure which comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in brain neuronal cells.

18. (new and withdrawn) A method for the treatment of peripheral nerve damage which comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in neuronal cells.

19. (new and withdrawn) A composition for protecting neural tissue from pressure induced apoptotic cell death which comprises at least one compound which blocks the effects of pressure on neuronal cells, optionally in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

20. (new and withdrawn) A composition for the treatment of glaucoma which comprises at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in neuronal cells, optionally in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

21. (new and withdrawn) A composition for the treatment of elevated brain pressure which comprises at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in brain neuronal cells, optionally in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

22. (new and withdrawn) A composition for the treatment of peripheral nerve damage which comprises at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels in

peripheral neuronal cells (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms, optionally in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.